

ADDRESS TO THE OLD LINE WHIGS OF THE FOURTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT.

PLATTSBURG, Clinton Co., Mo. }
July 18th, 1856. }

29 June 1996

Hon. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Ave.
Clayton, MO 63105

Good morning Mr. Newman:

I was wrong and wish to put that in print!

I've made my best effort at checking "French Point, MO" and humbly abashed myself. The evidence is overwhelming that, in 1863, such a place existed only in Jasper County as you had previously determined.

Reference to the Official Records of the War of the Rebellion demonstrate there was a Federal raid of a Jasper County location in May 1863 at a place called French Point and that one "Livingston" was chased from the vicinity.

Beyond this I resorted to the ace up my sleeve. She is a lifelong resident of Washington County just named by the Governor to the Missouri Humanities Council and the best source of information I know regarding the history of Washington County.

Her first letter offered some hope that I had been correct. She mentioned the place name "sounded" familiar to her area. But a second letter, received just yesterday, led her back to Jasper County for any reference to French Point, MO.

Neither she nor I can explain why such a note might have been redeemable "in specie" at "Cadett, I.M.R.R., Mo." in 1866. Only on this point does there seem to be some connection to the town of Cadet, Washington County.

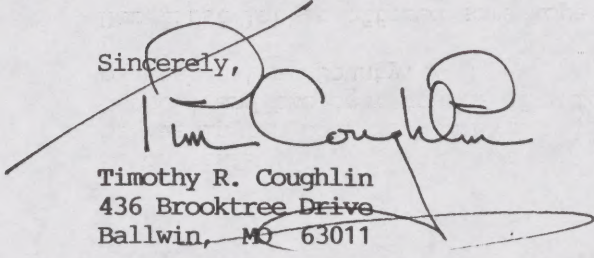
While contrite at even casting the slightest doubt on your documentation, perhaps you will take solace in knowing your own investigation has positively withstood independent scrutiny. And perhaps I may be forgiven.

Let me add my correspondence to Potosi included only a copy of the 25-cent certificate. Presuming a confidence, I revealed only that someone had shown me a copy to the enclosure which I was seeking to verify.

And, since confession is good for the soul, I am sending a copy of this letter to Thomas Serfass because I mentioned to him my initial, now repudiated, speculation.

With every good wish, I remain

Sincerely,



Timothy R. Coughlin
436 Brooktree Drive
Ballwin, MO 63011